Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Dakotah language has been the language spoken by the Dakotah peoples who inhabited our fine state and the surrounding areas; and,

Whereas, All native languages are important to South Dakotans and to the history of our beloved state; and,

Whereas, It is a tragic page of our history that many Dakotah people were forced to leave their homes to live in boarding schools; and,

Whereas, Many of these young Dakotah people were punished if they did not quickly learn the English language and stop speaking their native tongue; and,

Whereas, Today, the number of Dakotah people who can still speak their native language has declined to a dangerous low; and,

Whereas, The Dakotah language is recognized as a special possession of the Dakotah people which contains many, many phrases carrying much meaning; and,

Whereas, We applaud those teachers and concerned elders who tirelessly teach the Dakotah language and labor over curriculum:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, in order to recognize one of those important South Dakota languages, do hereby proclaim August 27, 2004, as

DAKOTAH LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION AND APPRECIATION DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State